

TO THE

FLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

By the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1905.

Estimated Population of District, 2,021 (Census 1901).

Reputed Present Population, 2,800.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to submit to you my second Annual Report for the year 1905.

The Health of the District, during this year, has been exceptionally good, apart from the statistics which are here submitted to you, the amount of illness is considerably less than in previous years. The number of deaths recorded is 36, the number of births is 53, the cases of notifiable disease are only 4, whereas in the previous year (1904) there were 19 cases in the nine months of the Council's existence.

The Death Rate is 12.5 per 1000; the Birth Rate is 19 per 1000, in the previous year the Birth Rate was 23.2 per 1000. This difference may be partly accounted for in the varying status of our resident population, and economic causes, and such as less work to attract the younger and working classes.

You will remember that in the year 1904, the Infantile Mortality was nil, "a fact which is unique since the County Statistics have been compiled," but this past year shews an Infant Mortality of 9 out of 36 deaths, or the high rate of 173 per 1000. This unusually high rate is accounted for by several cases of premature birth and other unavoidable causes, and illustrates the fallacy of statistics unsupported by other testimony.

In my report of last year, attention was directed to the overcrowding of the Schools, especially of the Infants' Department. This matter is still occupying the attention of the County Committee of Education, and of the School Managers, but to leave it unremedied constitutes a menace to the health of our younger generation. As School attendance is vigorously enforced by law, it is the obvious duty of the Authorities to ensure that School life shall not be fraught with danger to the health and happiness of the Scholars.

The surface drainage works which are now being carried on, should materially assist the working of many sub-irrigation schemes of sewage disposal, which in the rainy seasons have threatened failure from the water-logged soil. Visits of inspection have been made to various parts of the District by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and many of the defects found and reported upon have been remedied.

Several samples of water have been analysed, and where the water has been condemned a new supply has been established, generally from the public supply of the Frimley Water Company.

During the year inspections have been made of Factories, Dairies, Bake-houses, Cow-sheds, and Work-shops.

The following suggestions are recommended to the Council :—

A House to House visitation by the Sanitary Inspector, to report upon the Water supply and means of Sewage disposal.

A system of Refuse collection in a specially constructed cart.

The owners of all new houses be required to show evidence of a pure and adequate Water supply.

Appended is the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, with the Schedule of the work done.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY WILCOX.

FLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

H. WILCOX, ESQ.,
Medical Officer of Health,
Fleet.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to submit my Report as Sanitary Inspector for the year 1905.

During the year a general inspection of the district has been made including factories, workshops, bakehouses, dairies and slaughterhouses.

The following matters have been investigated and dealt with:—

NUISANCES.

- 11 cases of insufficient and defective drainage,
- 4 nuisances arising from soakage of waste liquid on to public roads,
- 6 defective and overflowing cesspools,
- 2 complaints as to keeping of animals so as to be a nuisance
- 8 deposits of offensive matter have been removed
- 1 offensive ditch and 1 filthy closet have been cleaned, and
- 1 nuisance arising from smoke has been abated.

Official notices have been served in fourteen cases only, and no prosecutions have been necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

- 2 cases of diptheria
- 1 of enteric, and
- 1 of scarlet fever, have been attended to and disinfectants supplied, and premises afterwards disinfected.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

All new drainage is inspected by myself as Surveyor, and underground drains are required to stand the water test.

House drain age generally is carried out satisfactorily and intelligently.

BYE-LAWS.

It is desirable that bye-laws with respect to nuisances, particularly as to keeping swine, and storage of manure, be included with the proposed new bye-laws affecting streets and buildings.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE AND STREET WORKS.

It is satisfactory to note that the surface water drainage, and improvement of the private streets now in hand, will considerably reduce the annoyance and discomfort experienced in wet weather arising from the present lack of proper drainage.

Faithfully yours,

H. J. CHIVERS,

Sanitary Inspector.

